recent rise in prices of agricultural commodities are largely short fall in domestic supplies relative to demand and hardening of international prices.

(e) Does not arise.

Foodgrain allocation to Rajasthan

†2306. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of affected villages alongwith number of districts of Rajasthan which have been declared deficient of foodgrains during the year 2005-06.

(b) the amount and the quantity of foodgrains demanded *vide* memorandum submitted by the State Government to the Centre for giving relief to the said villages;

(c) the amount and the quantity of foodgrains recommended for allocation by Central Study Group for the same; and

(d) the funds and quantity of foodgrains allocated by Centre to the State, so far, and the grounds for allocation of lesser funds and goodgrains to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As reported by Ministry of Agriculture, the Government of Rajasthan had, in December 2005, declared drought in 15778 villages in 22 districts in the State.

(b) to (d) On the basis of the approval by the High level Committee, upon the memorandum submitted by the State Government seeking central assistance for drought relief, an assistance of Rs. 146.50 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (subject to adjustment of 75% of the balance available in the State Calamity Relief Fund for the instant calamity) and 2 lakh MTs of wheat from the special component of Sampuran Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) for March and April, 2006 have been approved and released for drought relief in Rajasthan.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.